



August 8, 2003

Burl Scifres, Procurement Manager
Arkansas Department of Correction
6814 Princeton Pike
Pine Bluff, AR 71611

Re: Advisory Opinion #483-03-17

Dear Mr. Scifres:

This letter is in response to your request for an advisory opinion in accordance with §19-11-715(b) of the Arkansas Code Annotated of 1987. Your request for an advisory opinion is based on the following facts:

- (a) Ron Turchi is an Arkansas Department of Correction School District employee, who is a Black Belt Taekwondo instructor.
- (b) DOC is seeking an advisory opinion as to whether there would be a conflict to hire Mr. Turchi to teach Correctional Officers Taekwondo techniques for physical control and restraint of inmates.
- (c) The anticipated payments to Mr. Turchi would not exceed \$4,000.

The Ethics in Public Contracting Law at ACA §§19-11-701 et seq. applies to state employees, thus School District employees such as Mr. Turchi are exempt. In addition, the \$4,000 payment for his teaching services falls below the threshold for disclosure under Governor's Executive Order #98-04. Accordingly, there are no restrictions on hiring Mr. Turchi to instruct Correctional Officers in Taekowndo techniques.

This advisory opinion is issued in accordance with Arkansas code Annotated §19-11-715(b) and compliance with the above course of conduct is deemed to constitute compliance with the ethical standards of the Act and EO 98-04.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Weiss
Director

cc: Joe Giddis
Tom Gay, Office of Atty Gen.